ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for detecting flaws in a disk included as part of a hard disk drive are provided. A signal derived from data encoded on the disk is sampled. All or a subset of the n samples derived from a discrete portion of the disk are then used to derive a value. For example, the previous m significant samples are used to derive a value. The value may be derived by calculating a sum of the previous m samples, by integrating the previous m samples, by calculating an average of the previous m samples or by passing the previous m samples through a filter. The derived value is then compared to a threshold value. If the derived value is less than the threshold value, the controller of the disk drive is signaled to indicated that a flaw has been detected. The present invention allows flaws on disks or other storage media to be detected with improved accuracy.